with services and features of the telephone network 48 in the IP network 34 using the network elements 18, 20 with IP function. In this way, the subscribers 30, 32 are provided not only with the services and features of the IP network 34 but also with those of the telephone network 48. The network elements 12 to 20 and the controller 36 may be arranged at a spatial distance from one another here. In the telecommunications system illustrated in Figure 1, the network elements 12 to 24 are distributed over the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany. Setting information which is used to configure and administer services and features of individual subscribers 26, 28, 30, 32 of the telephone network 36 and of the IP network 34 is generated using the controller 36.

An operator configures the services and features for the subscribers 26 to 32 using an operator terminal 38 to 40 independently of the communications network 34, 48 to which the subscriber 26 to 32 is connected. The controller 36 generates setting information corresponding to the settings and the configuration of the services and features, said setting information being fed by the controller 36 to the network elements 12 to 24 using the administration connections. If this setting information has to be fed to a number of network elements 12 to 24 in order to set the service or feature, the corresponding setting information is fed to the respective network element 12 to 24 without this having to be brought about in a detailed way by the operator. After the setting or configuration of the service or feature on the operator terminal 38 to 46, the settings of the network elements 12 to 24 are made automatically.

Figure 2 illustrates a user interface of the controller 36 which is illustrated on one of the operator terminals 38 to 46 of the controller 36. The user interface 60 includes an operator panel 64 with typical control elements of graphic user interfaces such as pull-down menus and buttons. Furthermore, the graphic user interface includes a display area 66, register cards 68, a first selection window 70 for selecting basic subscriber functions, a second selection window 72 for selecting detailed subscriber functions and a status window 82 for displaying the status of

operations of the controller 36. The "subscriber administration" register card is selected using the register cards 68.

However, the controller 36 also can be used to carry out settings of the switching offices, settings of acknowledgements, settings of profiles and security settings, other register cards having to be selected for these settings. The selection of the "subscriber administration" register card causes basic subscriber functions to be displayed for selection in the first selection window 70. The "general subscriber administration" is selected using a selection bar 84 in the first selection window 70. The customers administered by the controller 36 are then displayed in the second selection window 72. These customers are company customers with subscriber lines at a number of locations which are administered jointly using the controller 36. These company customers are also referred to as business customers. Each customer forms one subscriber group here.

In the second selection window 72, the names of the subscriber groups are displayed in a first column 74. In a second column 76, the group number of the respective subscriber group is displayed. Supplementary information on the respective subscriber group is noted in the column 78. A subscriber group is selected for further processing using a selection bar 80, which is also referred to as a scroll bar. The "high interest bank" subscriber group with the subscriber group number 3730 is selected using the selection bar 80. The currently selected subscriber group "high interest bank" is displayed in the display area 66.

After the "high interest bank" subscriber group has been selected in Figure 2, the individual subscribers to this subscriber group are displayed using the user interface 60. After the selection and activation of the "high interest bank" subscriber group using the selection bar 80, the menu item "subscriber" is activated in the first selection window 70 by an operator using the selection bar 84. The subscribers to the "high interest bank" subscriber group are then displayed in the second selection window. The call number of the respective subscriber via which he/she can be accessed on the public telephone network 48 is displayed in a first column 86 of the second selection window 72. The internal call numbers of the subscribers which can

be used to access the subscriber within the subscriber group or within a CENTREX group are displayed in a second column 88. The name of the subscriber is presented in a third column 90, and the name of the subscriber group is presented in a column 92.

The number of the CENTREX group to which the subscriber is assigned is illustrated in a fifth column 94. The location of the network element or of the switching office 12 to 24 to which the respective subscriber 28 to 32 is connected or assigned is given in a sixth column 96, the type of the subscriber line of the respective subscriber is given in a seventh column 98, and a description of the subscriber line is given in an eighth column 100. Using the selection bar 80, a subscriber "Irena Romanski" of the "high interest bank" subscriber group is selected in order to display detailed information on this subscriber and to set services and features for the subscriber's subscriber line.

After the subscriber has been selected using the selection bar 80 and the selection bar has been activated, detailed information on the subscriber "Irena Romanski" is displayed in the second selection window 72. This is illustrated in Figure 4. The detailed information includes a display and input area 102 for the subscriber's name, a display and input area 104 for the alias name of the subscriber line of the subscriber "Irena Romanski" in the IP network 34, a display and input area 106 for the assignment of the subscriber line 26 to 32 to a network element 12 to 24, a display and input area 108 for the assignment of the subscriber line to a subscriber group, a display and input area 110 for displaying and assigning a call number of the telephone network and a display and input area 112 for entering a CENTREX call number of the subscriber "Irena Romanski".

The type of subscriber line is defined using a display and input area 114. Such a type of subscriber line may be, for example, the "analog" type, the "ISTN" type or the "IP" type for a subscriber to an IP network 34. The display and input area 116 can be used to preset a profile for the subscriber line. Register cards 118 can be used to select further display and input areas with setting facilities for the subscriber line of "Irena Romanski".